## SALT AND SALAD FARE LAST WEEK

Clever Entertainers Fail to Atone For Two Cohan Shows.

SHOP-MADE SLANG HAS FALSE NOTE

Ill-Timed Laughter Hardy Criterion of Public Estimate of "The Devil."

By ALLEN D. ALBERT, Jr.

A dinner is rarely bad all the way through. The salt is usually pretty good, no matter what has happened to the soup, the meat, and the dessert. This past week we have had to depend on the salt and the salad. "The Devil" is the devil.

of New York" could hardly be the talk of New York longer than would be required to give it a swift kick prop-

ton, and a managerie. Young Mr. Cohan has been too much occupied in getting rich to produce whirlwind entertainments with any considerable contri bution beyond the wind. Witness "The American Idea" of unhappy memory and these two offerings at the National and the Columbia!

Slang did more for "The Talk of New York" than Mr. Cohan. A little entertainer-not the best in the world by a whole lot-did more for "Fifty Miles From Boston." In other words, what was good in these two plays should be credited to Victor Moore and author set forth with so much ink on the billboards. This has been known to occur in other productions.

But the use of slang, of stage slang, is a curious thing. Nobody ever heard such talk anywhere else. If a real Burgher from the Bowery were to hand one to his lads only a sentence of Mr. Moore's slang he would get what has been picturesquely termed a dint in his lid. Paul Nicholson had something of this same vocabulary in "The Girl ed in the usual prosy manner. The Question." Occasionally one of these lines in the Thomas play are said to manufactured phrases sticks—as "22." But it is only occasionally. The rest of

Up in New York they had an editorial writer on the New York Sur who had once been a tough. He knew the tenements as most of us know the small town of our childhood. If he walked Avenue A or Ate Avenyuh he nodded to as many friends as the paymaster of a railroad gang. So he undertook once to point out the waste of opportunity these slang actors were

"You don't have to reel off a great good of words in a sequence of phrases that sound like the madhouse," he said. "Go down to Bleecker street and pick up a little of the genuine article. You'll make a real But the actors knew better than any mere editorial writer, and so they went their way with a polite invitation to the author of "My Mamie

Rose" to go his. Essential Difference.

Note the difference! The first act of "Salvation Nell" was written one way; Mr. Moore, Mr. Nicholson, and their associates write the other way. Nobody cares a rap for the latter. But the slang of the former contributes to an atmosphere of fine realism, has the interest of the true, and is a factor in real comedy, and not that which certain actors have described as the "Ladies - and - Gentlemen-Laugh-or-I-Lose-My-Job" kind.

There was some laughter over at the Belasco. Too much of it. Intelligent Americans, with hearts pure and sympathetic, should not be inclined to laugh at the corruption of their fellows. That is a spurious refinement which makes light of human souls and finds fascination in the Lord of Darkness.

This may seem old fashioned, this But it is, for very fact, down minute. Those who laughed did to the minute. Those who laughed did not do so out of hearty enjoyment. They did so, no doubt, from a mixture of impulses—they were willing to display their full appreciation of Mr. Ariliss as an actor; they did not care to parade their innermost convictions for others to see; they did not think of the deeper significance of the drama; they did not know. A great deal of what seems hopeless in this world of ours is due only to ignorance or thoughtlessness. But in the end our people assert soundness of character and trustworthiness of judgment. Otherwise, how have two companies starved to death with

ness of judgment. Otherwise, how have two companies starved to death with "The Devil," and this one come to look starvation in the face?

The vaudeville was the best entertainment in town-from every standpoint. There was interest enough for the thinking in Mr. Stevens' vigorously and faithfully drawn characters from Dickens. (He was vastly more at home there than in "The Devil.") There was fun enough in the sketch. "Back to Weilington." And the whole bill-here is the most significant thing-left a pleasant taste in the mouth. Some managers have wondered themselves faint over the inroads of vaudeville. They might learn a lesson if they They might learn a lesson if they thought over this last aspect of the situation.

Tribute to Critic.

(for several seasons dramatic editor of the Washington Herald) from the field of local criticism should not pass unnoticed in this column. It is too distinctly a local loss.

One of the great difficulties which every newspaper management encoun ters in its dramatic department is to obtain dependable information. "Opinion critics," in the phrase of the craft, ere many. But critics who have information, and the ability to make a lens of that information that their readers

formances are not many. They are in fact unhappily rare.

Mr. Fulier had this information and this ability. He had also deep-rocted convictions on the trend of the drama, convictions in which this newspaper sometimes did not concur. But he wrote of them frankly, he wrote entertainingly, and he offered Washington theatergoers abundantly out of his plentous store of information as to the stage, No such workman can retire from such a

## "FORTUNE HUNTER" WILL OPEN ITS METROPOLITAN SEASON HERE

Comedy Work of Winchell Smith, Author of "Brewster's Millions."

"WITCHING HOUR" AT THE BELASCO

John Mason in Thomas Play, and Robert Edeson Complete Week's Program.

The metropolitan premiere of "The Fortune Hunter," in which Cohan and Harris are starring Thomas W. Ross, will be made at the Columbia this week The new comedy, the work of Winchell Smith, author of "Brewster's Millions," is declared to be one of the censational plays of the sort seen or the American stage. Mr. Ross has found a vehicle exactly suited to his talents In "Brewster's Millions" the hero's en deavor is to spend a fortune in a prescribed length of time, but in "The For tune Hunter" it is necessary for Mr be required to give it a swift kick properly placed. "Fifty Miles From Boston" belongs at least fifty miles from Boston. The trouble with the two musical comedies is too much Cohan. Making plays of this class is like organizing and circus. A vast deal of cleverness is needed in addition to pom poms, tarleton, and a managerie. Young Mr Co-appeals to him as a most ridiculous appeals to him as a most ridiculous one, he decides to take a chance. "The Fortune Hunter" is a succession of laughs and the cast is an all-star one. Among those in addition to Mr. Ross are Miss Mary Ryan, who will be remembered for her great success in "That Little Affair at Boyd's" at the Columbia last year; Forrest Robin son, Sidney Ainsworth, Edgar Nelson Hale Hamilton, George Loane Tucker Walter Horton, and Ogden Stevens.

> BELASCO-John Mason in "The Witching Hour."

"The Witching Hour," with John Mason in the stellar role, will be the Edna Wallace Hopper rather than to the attraction at the Belasco Theater this

There seems to be no question as to

the public's fondness for the drama with the mystic element. with the mystic element.

Mr. Mason played the character of Jack Brookfield, the hypnotic gambler, nightly in New York all last season and part of the present season to capacity houses. New York reviewers are said to have agreed that this is an unequal production.

usual production.

The scientific discussion of telepathy in "The Witching Hour" is not present.

The Witching Hour" is in four acts them die with the little laugh that greets them through a short season.

In in New York they had an edioriginal Hackett Theater company.

> NATIONAL-"The Call of the North." Henry B. Harris will present Robert tomorrow night in George 'Broadhurst's play, "The Call of the North," a play adapted from Stewart Edward White's famous story, "Conjuror's House."
>
> The annual visits of Mr. Edeson to this city have been responsible for the propular plays and propular plays are sufficiently and support of such propular plays are sufficiently and support of such propular plays are supported by the Majestic Theafur this week.
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> The four acts of vaudeville include Whitely and Bell, comedy entertainers; W. L. Hall and his French Follies coming direct from his New York engagement at Hammerstein's Victoria Theafur this week.
>
> The four acts of vaudeville include Whitely and Bell, comedy entertainers; w. L. Hall and his French Follies coming direct from his New York engagement at Hammerstein's Victoria Theafur this week. Edeson at the New National Theater enjoyment of such popular plays as "The Soldiers of Fortune," "Ransom's Folly." "Strongheart," and "Class-

The story of "The Call of the North has to do with the adventures of Neu Frent (Mr. Edeson) a free trader in the Canadian border lands.

"The Call of the North" is laid in the picturesque and primitive region of the famous Hudson bay territory, hundreds of miles beyond the outposts of civilization, in uppermost Canada.

CHASE'S-Vaudeville.

Grand

Wagner

Concert

gold," "Lohe: "Tannhauser."

Chase's vaudeville bill this week in cludes the Harrison Armstrong company in 'Circumstantial Evidence," the Mirza-Golem Persian troupe, the Barrows-Lancaster company, Sydney Deane and company, Fred Sosman, Dave Jones

and company, Fred Sosman, Dave Jones and Harry Mayo, "Bimm, Bomm, Brrr," and the interesting motion pictures of "The Tunny Fisheries."

Chase's announces "Circumstantial Evidence" as a sensation. It is the sketch made famous through its triumph at the recent Lambs' Club gambol, where it was played for the first time. It is said that its revelation of jury-room actions and methods during criminal trials are surprising.

The Mirza-Golem troupe, from far



THOMAS W. ROSS. At Columbia in "The Fortune Hunter."

the merry mazes of their latest comedy hit. "Like Father, Like Son."

ACADEMY-"The Cowboy Girl." Clever Suc Marshall comes to the

Academy tomorrow night at the head of the new Kilroy and Britton melodramatic musical show called "The

Cowboy Girl."
Miss Marshall is a bright and talented little woman, and associated with her in the musical scenes are her "Frisky Broncos," a name given the chorus of vivacious soubrettes who dance, sing, and look pretty. The dramatic part of "A Cowboy Girl" is of the better sort, and though the play possesses several rather sensational scenes, yet they could not be termed lurid, and are relieved by the comedy element and catchy special music numbers. Among the original song hits written for the play are: "The Life of a Cowboy Girl," "All the World's in Love," and "The Boston Tourist Girls."

MAJESTIC-Moving Pictures and Vaudeville.

Another attractive will is booked for with his musical novelette, "A Parisian Flirtation;" Token, in his "Slide for Life," and Clotilde and Montoose, comedy acrobats.

LYCEUM-"Gaiety Girls."

At the New Lyceum Theater tomor

At the New Lyceum Theate: tomorrow afternoon Pat White and his famous "Gaiety Girls" will begin a week's engagement. Mr. White is surrounded by a strong company this season, which will be seer in "Loings in Mudville" and "The Night of the Fight," two musical comedies.

The vaudeville section of the program will include Jennings, Webb and O'Neil. in a comic sketch entitled "Whose Girls Are You?"; the marvelous Malvern troupe, George T. Davis, in illustrated songs; Pat White, in his specialty, in which a number of pretty girls take a prominent part, and others.

GAYETY-Reilly and Woods Show. Patrons of the Gayety Theater during the week beginning tomorrow matine

will have an opportunity to see Relliy and Woods "big" show. time. It is said that its revelation of jury-room actions and methods during criminal trials are surprising.

The Mirza-Golem troupe, from far away Teheran, Persia, vill be the added attraction. The Barrows-Lancaster company will laugh their way through The management claim that nothing

Matinee

Saturday at 2:20

**NEW YORK** 

SYMPHONY

And

## BACK NEXT WEEK

Returns to Belasco Theater Next Week in "The Truants."

Mary Mannering will return to the Sclasco Theater next week for the first performance in this country of a piece that has been one of the greatest London successes of the last year.

It is "The Truants," in which Leua Ashwel! has been appearing at the Kingswav Theater, London. The piece is described as a three-act comedy; yet it is said to have a serious and decidedly dramatic side, and to point a wholesome moral without attempting to preach a sermon.

NATIONAL-"Follies of 1908." Florenz Ziegfeld, jr.'s musical revue MARIE "The Follies of 1908," will be the attraction at the New National next

week.

The cast this year contains more well-known names, with Miss Nora Bayes the added feature. Among the prominent comedians and singers associated with Miss Bayes are Bickel and Watson, Annabella Whitford, Mile. Dazle, Grace, Leigh, William Powers, Arthur Deagon, Billie Reeves.

COLUMBIA-Marie Cahill in "The Boys and Bettie." Marie Cahill, in her latest successful

musical play, "The Boys and Bettie," (Continued on Eleventh Page.)

ACADEMY

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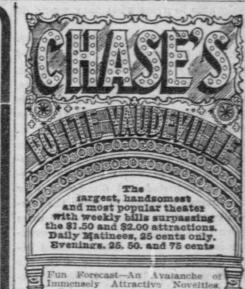
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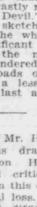
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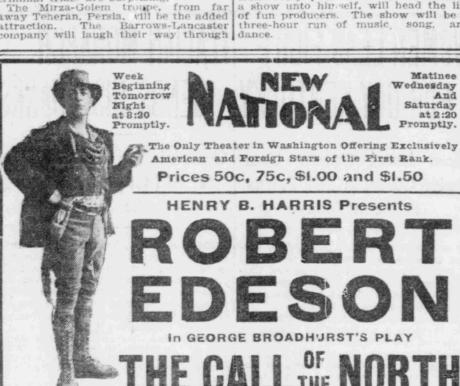
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